THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 2nd April 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Store-keepers, Central Jail, Cannanore

* 1826 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Store-keeper of the Central Jail, Cannanore, was recently suspended from service on charges of misappropriation;

(*b*) the amount misappropriated;

(*c*) the persons involved in the misappropriation;

(*d*) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry; and

(*e*) if so, with what result?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—(*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) to (*e*) The matter is now under investigation."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know the amount misappropriated. Why the Government have delayed the conducting of an enquiry in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The first shortage was to the extent of Rs. 2,000 odd. When it was brought to the notice of the Government, an enquiry was ordered. There it was found that there were further shortages and the matter was referred to the X-Branch and they have also made an enquiry. So, there has been no delay in instituting an enquiry. As a matter of fact, it is being expeditiously enquired into and we hope to reach a decision very soon."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that the store-keeper appointed in the place of the store-keeper who was suspended, was also arrested by the Police at the Madras Hotel, Cannanore, while he was selling oil engines to some persons? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not have the entire report. But I do not think that we need go into

details. The matter is under investigation and it is likely to go to Court very soon, and I think, it is better that we refrain from going into details."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Were there any auditing of accounts and if so when was it audited and when it was brought to the notice of the Government? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It was during the routine audit that the first shortage was brought to the notice of the Government. After that, we instituted a special audit for that purpose, wherein we found further shortages."

Industrial dispute in Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke

* 1827 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received a joint application through the Labour Officer, Kozhikode, on 19th January 1955 under section 10 (2) of the Industrial Disputes Act by the representatives of Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, Malabar, and those of the Commonwealth Labour Union for referring the question of bonus for the year 1952–53, increase of 2 annas in dearness allowance and gratuity, for adjudication; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The dispute has been referred for adjudication."

Koothali estate

* 1828 Q.—DR. K. B. MENON : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Hon. Minister for Agriculture discussed with the Collector the problem of leasing land in Koothali Estate during his recent visit to Malabar;

(b) whether Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar, M.L.A., met him in connexion with the same problem and the Satyagraha that was going on there; and

(c) whether any undertaking regarding the leasing of lands in Koothali Estate and withdrawal of Satyagraha was given by him to Sri Krishna Ayyar, M.L.A., and if so, what it was?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) No."